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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

Top Secret

c 196

3 September 1971

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Approved For Release 2003/05/19 : CIA-RDP79T00975A019900070002-3

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WEST GERMANY: Chancellor Brandt is concerned that West Germany is being left behind by France and other West European countries in their efforts to establish profitable relations with the USSR and Communist China.

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Many Germans have long feared that a period of detente would result in the diplomatic isolation of the Federal Republic. While such fears were lessened somewhat with the advent of Ostpolitik and the improved atmosphere in German-Soviet relations, they have been revived in recent months by developments in Sino-American relations. The Brandt government believes that it cannot at this time actively seek better relations with Peking for fear of offending Moscow and risking the fruits of Ostpolitik in Eastern Europe.

Although Brandt does not now envision seeking diplomatic relations with Peking before 1974, [redacted] Bonn may take a more active role once its treaties with Moscow and Warsaw are ratified. Earlier he indicated an expectation of expanding German-Chinese trade relations, although Peking has been uninterested in an exchange of trade missions. He apparently is also actively considering other means of improving the atmosphere, such as the establishment of a German-Chinese friendship society enrolling some important political personalities.

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As regards the Soviet Union, [redacted] Brandt is angling for an invitation for another visit to Moscow before the German-Soviet treaty is ratified. [redacted] Brandt might use this occasion to sign a cultural agreement and a long-pending trade pact.

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